Conservation of heritage buildings

4025. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has planned to conserve the heritage buildings within its jurisdiction;

(b) if so, the number of buildings that have been brought within the ambit of this agency; and

(c) Government's action plan to revamp the historic buildings/places to conserve their heritage character?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Heritage Conservation Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation for the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) The list of buildings to be brought within the ambit of this Committee is being finalised.

(c) The notification issued by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has imposed restrictions on the development/ redevelopment/repairs of the heritage buildings. In addition, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has drafted 'The Delhi Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Bill, 2004", which is pending for the assent of the Hon'ble President of India.

Birth place of Rani Laxmibai

† 4026. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to develop the birth place of Rani Laxmibai situated at Varanasi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The development of birth place of Rani Laxmibai situated at Varanasi will be considered under the programmes for commemoration of the 150th

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Anniversary of India's First War of Independence in the year 2007. The details will be worked out in due course.

Inclusion of Belur as World Heritage Site

4027. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to ensure that Belur in Karnataka is included in the list as World Heritage Site; and

(b) whether any team/experts from UNESCO have visted Belur in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Historical monuments

4028. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many historical monuments arc in very dilapidated conditions;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to renovate these monuments;

(c) whether Government are aware that many monuments are being misused by the anti-social elements; and

(d) if so, the preventive steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In respect of all nationally protected monuments, the Archaeological Survey of India is taking adequate conservation measures which include structural repairs and renovation.

(c) and (d) For proper security of such monuments, Archaeological Survey of India has deployed watch and ward staff. Their strength is supplemented by private security guards, State Police and Central Industrial Security Force at selected monuments. In addition, the protected areas of the important monuments are also fenced.